



## OFFICE MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** October 29, 1997

**TO:** Regional Engineers  
Regional Associate Delivery Engineers  
Regional Construction Engineers  
TSC Managers/Resident/Project Engineers

**FROM:** Gary D. Taylor  
Chief Engineer/Deputy Director  
Bureau of Highway Technical Services

C. Thomas Maki  
Deputy Director  
Bureau of Highway Operations

**SUBJECT: CONSTRUCTION INSTRUCTIONAL MEMORANDUM 1997-8  
Equipment Back-Up Warning**

Several fatal accidents have occurred during the 1997 construction season due to malfunctioning equipment backup warning devices.

Do not allow material handling equipment on a construction worksite that lacks a means to warn others when it is backing up. Material handling equipment is equipment that moves material in any manner. The warning is for your safety, those around you, and is a requirement of OSHA.

Even though contractors are responsible, MDOT will be cited by MIOSHA for allowing equipment with no functional back-up warning system in place on our projects. The OSHA Rule states:

**No employee shall use any motor vehicle equipment having an obstructed view to the rear unless the vehicle has a reverse signal alarm audible above the surrounding noise level or the vehicle is backed up only when an observer signals that it is safe to do so.**

Again, for the safety of all on construction projects, be alert of your physical surroundings by paying particular attention to equipment backing up.

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Chief Engineer/Deputy Director

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Deputy Director

JDC:JG:jp  
Subject Index: Safety

cc:     Lansing C&T Division Engineers  
          Lansing C&T Division Technicians  
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